GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4824
ANSWERED ON:24.04.2002
INDO-PAK TIES
RENUKA CHOWDHURY;SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE;T. GOVINDAN

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether during the recent visit of the Minister of Information & Broadcasting to Islamabad in connection with the SAARC meeting of Information Ministers, Pakistan had indicated its intention to enter into an Extradition Treaty with India for exchange of fugitives;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Pak-authorities have also expressed their desire for talks with India on various bilateral issues; and

(d) if so, the Government`s response thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH)

(a)&(b) Pakistan has not made any formal proposal to India for an extradition treaty.

In comments to the media, in early March, the Pakistan Foreign Minister suggested that the conclusion of an Extradition Treaty between India and Pakistan could be explored when dialogue between the two countries resumes, and that in such a context Pakistan could consider the question of 20 fugitives from law being sought by India.

However, during the visit to India of Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf, in July 2001, Home Minister, Shri L.K. Advani, had specifically proposed to the latter the conclusion of an Extradition Treaty between India and Pakistan. The President of Pakistan turned down the suggestion arguing that such a Treaty was possible only after the normalization of relations between the two countries. It is quite clear that the recent suggestions from Pakistan for an extradition treaty are only meant for propaganda purposes and to delay action on the 20 fugitives from law.

(c)&(d) Pakistani leaders have been calling for a resumption of dialogue with India, even while Pakistan continues to sponsor cross border terrorism in India and its leaders justify continued terrorist violence in Jammu & Kashmir.

India has always desired the establishment of good neighbourly ties with Pakistan, and for this purpose is committed to resuming the Composite Dialogue initiated by us in 1998. It is for Pakistan to end its sponsorship of cross border terrorism and take urgent action on the list of 20 fugitives from law, so that appropriate conditions for a meaningful dialogue process are created.